

SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ELECTION GUIDELINES

CLARENDON COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS

ELECTIONEERING

Defined as campaigning for or against a candidate, ballot question, or political party

- Posting Signs
- Distributing literature
- Using Loudspeakers
- Buying, selling, wearing, or displaying any badge, button, or insignia of something on the ballot

EARLY VOTING

- Public Property - Electioneering is not allowed within 500 ft. of the entrance to a Polling Place (7-25-180 (a))
- Electioneering material being displayed within the 500 ft; but on private property is not enforceable by poll managers

ELECTION DAY

- Public Property - Electioneering is not allowed within 500ft of the entrance to a Polling Place (7-25-180 (a))
- Electioneering material being displayed within the 500ft. but on private property is not enforceable by poll managers.

PROCURING VOTES WITH THREATS

SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS (7-25-70) PROCURING VOTES BY THREATS

"It is unlawful for a person, by threats or any other form of intimidation, to procure, offer, or promise to endeavor to procure another to vote for or against any particular candidate in any election. A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than three years or both."

VOTER INTIMIDATION

South Carolina Code of Laws (7-25-80)

Threatening, intimidating, or abusing voters

"A person who, at any of the elections, general, special or primary, in any city, town, ward or polling precinct, threatens, mistreats, or abuses a voter with a view to control or intimidate him in the free exercise of his right of suffrage, is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be fined in the discretion of the court or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both"



POLL WATCHERS

A poll watcher is a person designated by a candidate or party to fulfill a specific role at the precinct. They will have an official letter from the candidate or party designating them as such and listing the precinct(s) for which they may be assigned.

DO'S & DON'TS

WATCHERS/OBSERVERS CAN:

- Observe the election processes, including the opening and closing processes at the polling place.
- Observe the election processes during the early voting period at an early voting center.
- Obtain information from the clerk or designated poll manager about how many people have voted and who has voted.
- Ask questions of the clerk, or designated poll manager if the question do not interfere with the conduct of any part of the election process. If there is a disagreement, contact with our office should be made by the clerk.

WATCHERS/OBSERVERS CANNOT:

- Interfere with the conduct of the election.
- Take pictures or videos inside the polling place, except for the zero and results tapes once posted.
- Physically handle or touch any voting materials or equipment.
- View confidential voter information on any computer terminal, EPB, or document.
- Communicate directly with voters inside of a polling place or any early voting center.
- Tell a manager or clerk how to conduct their duties.
- Verbally or physically intimidate voters, election workers, or any other person.

POLL OBSERVERS

An observer is a member of the public who isn't performing a specific role (manager, clerk, voter, watcher, etc.) Since elections are a public process, anyone should be allowed to observe under certain conditions.

EVERY VOTE MATTERS.
EVERY VOTE COUNTS.

PATROL RESPONSIBILITIES ON ELECTION DAY

South Carolina Code of Laws (7-13-160)

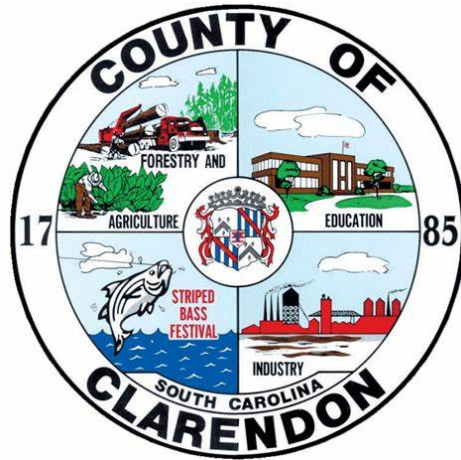
“No sheriff, deputy sheriff, policeman or other officers shall be allowed to come within the polling place except to vote unless summoned into it by a majority of the managers. On failure of any sheriff, deputy sheriff, policeman or other officer to comply with the provisions of the preceding sentence, the managers of election, or one of them, shall make affidavit against such sheriff, deputy sheriff, policeman or

LAW ENFORCEMENT CAN:

- Be familiar with the polling locations within your assigned area
- Be familiar with Title 7 of the SC Code of Laws that pertains to Election Laws
- Observe any illegal activity, electioneering etc. in the vicinity of polling locations
- Remain alert and ready to respond impartially if called upon by a clerk.
- If questioned, emphasize the police's role to maintain both the physical safety and voting rights of individuals in a fair and impartial manner.
- Notify supervisor of actions taken at a polling location so they can be in contact and brief our office of the specific situation

LAW ENFORCEMENT CANNOT:

- Interfere in the election process at a polling location while on duty unless called upon or voting
- Remain at polling locations for a prolonged period of time unless requested by the clerk.
- Discuss the election, candidates, and/or political issues with anyone in or around the polling locations.
- Enter a polling location at the request of another individual who is not the clerk or poll manager.



**CLARENDON COUNTY VOTER
REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS**
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